(d) The Propanganda on the needs of family welfare planning, pre-natal care of expecting mothers, infant care, balanced diet, prevention of communicable and epidemic diseases is being promoted with the cooperation of the State Governments through the use of radio, T.V. and other mass-media as well an interpersonal contacts.

298. *[Transferred to 4th December, 1992]*

Assessment about prevalence of AIDS in India

299. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest Government's assessment in regard to the prevalence of AIDS in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that Slums and squatters' settelements are fastly becoming breeding grounds for this disease and its spread to the rural area; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The number of detected cases of HIV infection in the country as on 31.10.1992 is 10,856. This sample is largely confined to the high risk behaviour group. The Government has not done so far any prevalence study of the general population.

(b) There are no empirical studies to show that slums and squatters' settlements are becoming breeding grounds for this disease.

(c) AIDS at present has no cure. The Government, therefore, is laying stress on the preventive strategies based on raising the level of awareness in the community and the people, increasing blood safety and its rational use, strengthening the sexually transmitted diseases Control Programme and improving Clinical Management and Surveillance.

Deputation to the WHO

300. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who are on deputation to the WHO;

(b) the number of employees who left their job and joined the WHO during the last three years; and

(c) what is the number of employees of State Governments who have joined theWHO during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Nil.

(b) One.

(c) Nil.

Medical personnel going abroad

301. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical personnel employed with Government who had gone abroad to attend various medical conferences during the last three years;

(b) what was the amount of expenditure incurred on them; and

(c) whether any evaluation had been made about the advantages of incurring such an expenditure on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) During the last three years, the following number of medical and non-medical personnel have been permitted by this Ministry to attend various medical conferences aborad:—